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## TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	09/621,670
		Filing Date	July 24, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Ashby et al.
		Group Art Unit	3765
		Examiner Name	Izaguirre, Ismael
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	034298-000068

### ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
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### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Adrienne Yeung, Reg. No. 44,000
Signature	
Date	5/23/03

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date:

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Docket No. 034298-000068

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

APPLICANT: Ashby et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 09/621,670  
FILING DATE: July 24, 2000  
TITLE: DEPTH AND PUNCTURE CONTROL FOR SYSTEM FOR HEM  
EXAMINER: Ismael Izaguirre  
ART UNIT: 3765

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on the date printed below:

Date: 5-23-03

Name: Carol Diez  
Carol Diez

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Each item of information listed in the attached FORM PTO-1449, for which a copy of each is attached, may be material to the examination of the above-identified application and is, therefore, submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure defined in 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The Examiner is requested to make these items of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one or more of these items constitutes prior art.

## I

This statement is filed pursuant to:

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

This information disclosure statement is filed either (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d); (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application; (3) before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, or (4) before the mailing of a first office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, whichever event occurs last.

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires no fee and no certification.

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b), but before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires either the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c) (\$180); or a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e).

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c).

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) to consider an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) (\$180), and a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

If this statement crosses in the mail with an office action, or is otherwise not in the indicated category of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, it is respectfully requested that this statement be treated in the next appropriate category and made of record. To the extent required, please treat this paper as a conditional petition for acceptance of the information disclosure statement.

II

(x) No fee is due.

( ) The fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) is enclosed (\$180).

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 50-1698. An additional copy of this page is enclosed.

III

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), I certify:

(X) No certification is necessary.

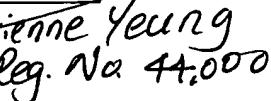
( ) (1) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

( ) (2) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

Dated: May 27, 2003

THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
(408) 292-5800

  
John P. Schaub   
Reg. No. 42,125 Adrienne Young  
  
Reg. No. 44,000